



Blog is short for 'web log'. You may have read some online, or you may even have your own. So, what is the point of a blog? Well, there are literally hundreds of thousands of them online. You can read about anything from: snails (<http://thesnog.blogspot.com>) to technology (<http://go.bloomberg.com/tech-blog/>). Even celebrities (<http://katyperryblog.tumblr.com>) and your teacher (<http://1brainsandwich.blogspot.com>) has one!

What kind of blog could you start? Here are some topics that you could blog about:

1. **Yourself:** People are nosey, they like to read about other people - just make it interesting.
2. **A hobby:** If you love doing something, maybe others do to, so why not write about it?
3. **Advice:** Many blogs offer advice like what to wear, eat, do etc.
4. **Information:** If you know a lot about a topic, write and it and share your views.

So, how can we make a good blog? Well, here are some ideas.

1. **Be original:** Everyone writes about food, if you do, why is it special?
2. **Be visual:** Use images, video to create a more interesting blog post.
3. **Be structured:** Make sure your blog post has a beginning, middle and ending.
4. **Be interested:** If you have fun doing this blog, your audience will have fun reading it.

Now, let's make your blog. It is easy to do and your teacher will show you how to do it. All you have to do is to decide what kind of blog that you want to write.

Just remember to choose a theme for your blog which is original. There are so many movie, food and fashion blogs, so how will yours be different????

How to write your blog

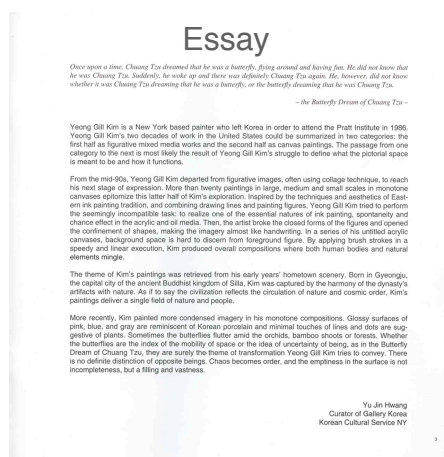
A blog is very different to an essay. An essay is structured more tightly with strong topic sentences, thesis statements, and formal grammar like passives. Blogs are more like a personal diary. That means the language you use is more causal.



Paragraphs.

In an essay your paragraphs will be longer and contain more information. Also, one paragraph may contain a number of ideas and supporting sentences.

A blog, however, contains much smaller paragraphs. Usually, one paragraph has one idea. Look at the examples below.



Blog

Step 1 - Using SA for simple activities/projects
Carry out some group activities with your students. Then, give them a simple rubric and ask them to assess their own performance. Your students will find this strange at first, but they will soon get used to it.

Step 2 - Using SA for your main activity/project
For the main activity you wish to use SA with, it is a good idea to do it twice. You can do it half way through the activity, assuming that it takes a number of days, then use the same SA at the end of the project/activity.

Step 3 - Keep records
Keep a note of all the students' scores, because at the end you can compare the score from the mid activity/project SA and the final SA.

Step 4 - scoring
This part is up to you. If you are not so sure about SA why not make their score form 20% of their final grade. That means, 80% comes from you and 20% comes from them. If you are more confident that your students can handle it, why not give them control over 30-40% and you can take 60%. It is completely up to you and really depends on your classroom situation.

Reflection
I myself was skeptical about using self-assessment at first, however, I have come to see how powerful it is. Giving the students ownership of their own grade helps them to become part of the assessment process. I haven't had any students

Writing Style

Unlike essays, blogs are written in a very casual way. You can use contractions (I'm, I'll, I've), and you can use 'I'. That means, you don't have to worry about passive so much. You can use slang (Yeah, Yay, Yup, LOL) and you can use less formal vocabulary.

Structure

Even though a blog is less formal than an essay, you still need to show that you have an introduction, main body(s) and a conclusion, though, you do not have to write "In conclusion".

Whatever your topic is, go and check out some other blogs which are based about the same theme. Look at the writing style as it will give you some useful advice.

Happy Blogging!